GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7294
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN KERALA
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve industrial sector in Kerala;

(b) the number of new industries have been started in Kerala during the last three years;

(c) the export performance of the industries in Kerala pertaining to spices, rubber and other cash crops in the last three years;

(d) whether the prospect of export of spices from Kerala is very high in the coming years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) Developing and improving the industrial sector in any State is primarily the sole responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supplements their efforts by way of various incentive schemes like Growth Centre Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme etc.

The Government of Kerala has announced its new Industrial Policy in October, 1998.They have taken various steps with the aim of accelerating average annual industrial growth to 9%, creating massive employment opportunities, developing necessary industrial infrastructure, attracting domestic and foreign investment and optimising utilisation of natural resources and potential available in the State.`
(b) The details of the number of Letters of Intent (LOIs), Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs that have been granted during the last three years in the State of Kerala are as under :-

	1997		1998		1999	
	No.	Investment (Rs. Crore)	No.	Investment (Rs. Crore)	No.	Investment (Rs. Crore)
LOIs			1	0.40		
IEMs	33	251	16	72	31	1388.00
EOUs	2	12	3	8	3	7.00

During the period from January, 1997 to December, 1999, four letters of intent have been converted into Industrial Licences and 24 IEMs have reported implementation.

Government of Kerala has reported that following units have been established in that State during the period in the Question -

Technopark	23 companies
KINFRA	27 companies
SSI Sector under DIC	56704 units
KSIDC assisted projects	160

(c) Kerala is a leading producer of spices and cashew in the country and thereby contributes to the bulk of exports. As far as Natural Rubber is concerned our country has traditionally been a net importer of this item. Though from the year 1997-98 onwards, the production of natural rubber in the country has exceeded the consumption due to recession in the user industry, major export of natural rubber has not been possible because the international prices are mostly below the domestic price levels.

State-wise export data is not centrally maintained.

(d) & (e) The export potential of spices from Kerala is very bright. The demand is for pepper, ginger and turmeric. The State is also having spice based oil and oleoresin industries. The export of these products is on the increase every year.